

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

U.S. National Phase Application of: )  
International Application No.: )  
PCT/EP2003/008748 ) Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned  
Inventors: Daniele ANDRONI et al. ) Examiner: Not Yet Assigned  
Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned )  
Filed: February 7, 2006 )  
For: A MODULAR, EASILY )  
CONFIGURABLE AND )  
EXPANDIBLE NODE )  
STRUCTURE FOR AN OPTICAL )  
COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK )

MAIL STOP PCT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Before examining this application, please amend this application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begins on page 2 of this amendment.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on  
page 3 of this amendment.

An abstract is provided on page 9 of this amendment and as a separate page  
enclosed herewith.

Remarks begin on page 10 of this amendment.